(iv) The Cochin Vehicles Taxation Act (Amendment) Bill

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Public Health):* Sir, I move that the Cochin Vehicles Taxation Act (Amendment) Bill be taken up and finally passed.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* I second it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Mr. President, I oppose this Bill also. Yesterday, Sir, in opposing this measure of amendment of the Vehicles Taxation Act, I stated my reasons for the opposition, and also placed before this House why the only idea that you have mentioned in the objects and reasons *viz.* to come into line with the Madras Province as far as this taxation is concerned is not anything which is tenable, and I had advanced certain arguments in support of that position. I rounded off my opposition by saying that you may be pleased at least to send this Bill to a Select Committee, which also could not be had, so we are here at the third reading posted today. Hence I oppose.

Now Sir, the Cochin Vehicles Taxation Act was passed by this House on the 4th April 1946 or rather 9th April 1946 and the schedule attached to that measure was a schedule not on a par with the schedule in British India. At that time, Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Secretary to Government, who moved for introduction, very briefly stated that the system of toll collection is almost a nuisance, and is therefore proposed to do away with that nuisance, and in place of that a system of taxation of vehicles is proposed to be resorted to for which provisions had been introduced in the Bill—as many as 18 clauses with four schedules. And when a change over from the existing system, which, if it is a nuisance, we could normally accept some discussion on that important measure which creates a changeover from the time-honoured system of collection of tolls. When many years over it was a change from the existing order of things and when such a change is proposed to be effected, the sponsers of such a move must be considered to have bestowed their thought to the best of their ability and come to some method which, at least to them, must have struck as being equitable and a proper substitute with this additional advantage that the earlier state of things, which, according to the sponser of the Bill then was a nuisance, is done away with and something better is introduced in its place, which the Bill, according to him, was and that part of the Bill, that is that the change over from the nuisance of toll to the better method of collection of tax on vehicles is seen to have been endorsed by this House, because I find, Sir, only a one page discussion very briefly and crisply explained. There were only two non-official members, who fortunately or unfortunately interrupted the calmness of the atmosphere of that day. One of these interrupters had been myself. I interjected whether the rates shown in the schedule are on a par with those in Madras Province. I just posed that question and the answer given to me was No. It ranges between 75 to 80 per cent of Madras rates, said the Secretary to Government. It is only 75 to 80 per cent of the Madras rates. That statement is there. That satisfied me and also he said after saying that it ranges from 75 to 80 per cent of the Madras tax, he also said that we have adopted the Travancore rates. Then another friend of mine now in the Ministerialist block asked whether the Travancore rates are not less than the present rate fixed by us. That interjection of my esteemed friend was answered by an elucidation that we have adopted the Travancore rates. The whole scene closes. A motion is passed that standing order 32 is suspended. That was readily granted. Nobody objected and the President granted the prayer. So the consideration comes to an end and the printed proceedings will show that the consideration takes places, clauses 1 to 18 put and passed. Next, Schedule 1 to 4 put and passed. Then the Mover gets up and says that this may be passed to-morrow. That is how this taxation measure came into our Statute Book.

That was on the 9th of April and a month or so later it goes to the Statute Book and we have got our present Vehicles Taxation Act which is nowsought to be amended and it is a very simple process. It is not at all combersome I congratulate the Government in their simple method approach and the very high ideal and the objective they have in this amendment. They want now to come into line with the exploiter Province of Madras—that once it was. Now you have eminently suceeded Sir, in that, in your attempt at coming into a par with Madras as far as squeezing of money from the rich and the poor alike. I congratulate you. You have succeded and succeeded eminently. I study Sir in the Madras.....

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Public Health):* In this particular case, how will it affect the poor? Will the Hon'ble Member please explain?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I would like to know your definition of the poor, Sir.

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Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Public Health):* The Hon'ble Member was defending the poor man's cause all the while I would like to know how this particular tax—vehicles tax will affect the poor according to him.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Unless of course the definition of the poor according to the Government of the day is known there is no point in my giving them my definition of poor. It is very well known, Sir, and I am not going to give you my view of the poor man for the simple reason that it is very well known who is a poor man.

Now Sir, I was saying that in squeezing out money from the rich and the poor alike—I repeatedly use the words you are squeezing money from the poor—the rich cannot be suffering as much as the poor. The poor man's vehicle is also under taxation. He who possesses a vehicle is not a rich man. He has not come to the level of gentlemen who change their cars twice in 10 months. I am not thinking of those gentlemen. I am thinking of the Cochin Public who, to meet their absolute needs, is having vehicles—transport vehicles—according to their status. Don't think that the poor man is the begger. After all that is only a comparative term.

Mr. Puthur Achutha Menon *(Kattur):* So you argue for that class of people ?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I will reply you at home at our dining table. Not now. Now Sir, you have succeeded in that process of squeezing from the poor. The question is whether there is any justification. The Madras Vehicles Taxation Act—Act III of 1931—was passed in the year 1931 after two days discussion. Our Cochin Act was passed in the month of Edavam. It is in Edavam that it gets the royal assent and goes to the Statute Book. Then a little time after just over an year comes the stepping up of the rates. With a few exceptions by 25 percent—only 25 per cent you have stepped up. If you had stepped up 100 per cent there is no power here to stop you. Therefore I congratulate the people that your attempt was to step up only 25 per cent. On the other hand if you intended to have 100 per cent who is to prevent that ? Therefore I must congratulate myself as also the class of people that will be affected by this taxation measure that it has been stepped up only by 25 per cent and not by 100 or more. Even that you could have done. Now what is the position as far as Madras Act is concerned with which you have now come in line by your amendment. The Madras Act contains the same schedule, the same rate in 1931 and even the exploiter Government of those days and subsequent days, till recent days, even they did not think of stepping up the rate. So, as far as the Madras Province is concerned the Madras Taxation Act has got the same schedule for the last 16 years with the exception of the removal of certain schedules by subsequent amendment. That is all they have done materially. There have been ever so many amendments there, though various amending acts which I have noted, but it is a changing of words only in many cases. Under the Constitution Act of 1935 certain words had to be changed in the Act which are of course little things. Then certain clauses in the Act were found to have been unnecessary and they were, therefore, removed. Certain additions have been made as a result of the working of the Act. These are the only amendments but never an amendment in any vital thing. In the course of 16 years of the working of the Madras Act no material change was made in Madras while in Cochin in the eleventh month of the Cochin Act, the most vital part of the Act namely the schedule vital changes are sought to be made, by stepping it up by 25 per cent. Is it justifiable Sir, for a socialistic Government, that you say you are and pray that you be, which you, according to me, are not, I earnestly pray you be what you say you are, and people want you to be. Is it justifiable for a Government, whatever its colour is, to increase the rates in the schedule in the eleventh month of the birth of the Act, not by one per cent, but by 25 per cent at a jump on the execuse that you are anxious to come into line with the Madras Act. I would have been glad Sir, if you had avoided that reference at least in the statement of objects and reasons. Why not you be honest ? By your methods of running the administration for these ten months, and the way in which you want to run the administration hereafter, you want more money. You have put your hands into the revenue reserve which, according to the admissions of the Government last year, is a place to which your hands should not go in these days, but only at a particular sort of time that was mentioned by the then Chief Secrectary, who is not now the Secretary.

Mr. President: I shall allow one minute more for the Hon'ble Member.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I want ten minutes more, Sir. Before 1-30 I will not be able to finish. I therefore pray, Sir, that I may be given 10 minutes more and not one minute only.

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Mr. President: Yes, the Hon'ble Member may continue his speech after lunch. Now there are two minutes more.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Thank you, Sir. I was saying that the Government of the day should not have gone in for this stepping up of the rates of taxation by this huge jump of 25 per cent. Even if you wanted money badly, you could have asked for it in a straightforward manner thinking clearly what you want, without saying that you want to fall in line with other British Indian provinces. Eleven months back you said that you have adopted the Travancore rates which ranged between 75 and 80 per cent of Madras rates. Well, are you going to give up the Travancore rates for the reason certain unhappy things that are taking place there. Is it in protest to that that the Travancore rates are to go now? And again is it in appreciation of the things that are going on in British India that you want to fall in line with them and step up the rates by 25 per cent?

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnthukavu):* That is only an accident. What we want is money.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Yes, Sir. There are very many accidents on that side. I appreciate that at least one of the members from that side recognise that this is one of the accidents and that the Government, only excuse is that they want money badly. All the taxation measures brought before this House were accidents, perhaps.

Mr. President: Yes, order. It is time.

The House rose for lunch at 1-30 p.m. and reassembled at 2-30 p.m. with the Hon'ble President in the Chair.

Mr. P. T. Jacob *(Latin-Christians-Mattancheri):* In view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister I do not want further steps to be taken on the adjournment motion.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Mr. President, I was just referring to the old age of the Madras Act and the youth of the Cochin Act and that in the course of 16 years that Government did not find it necessary to revise their rates of vehicles tax and that our Government have no justification at all to revise the Cochin rates and that at a big jump of 25 per cent and that again in the 11th month of the working of the Act. I submit Sir, that in answer to your query I said that I may require 10 minutes of that which I have been considered to have taken 2 minutes before lunch. Although I have got again 8 minutes more by your indulgence—I was making that request on an official day as I now find that today is a non-official day in a sense namely that it is a day put down for voting on demands and therefore I surrender my 8 minutes and close my remarks observing once again that there is absolutely no justification for the Government to step up these rates by 25 per cent within a period of 10 or 12 months from your starting the operation of your Act and one word, Sir, to the Hon'ble Minister who interjected by asking me who the poor are. I shall tell him in conclusion, Sir, that there are bus owners who have made and who are making riches by their trade. But there are amongst them, Sir, individuals having one single vehicle which is their very sustenance and Re. 1 reduced from the tax that they have to pay is so much saved to fill the hungry stomache of his family. There is absolutely no need.....

Mr. President: The Hon'ble Member is encroaching upon himself.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* That is a pardonable thing, Sir. Anyhow I will only say that he has not made out his case for enhancing the rates, and therefore I register my emphatic protest and oppose this at the last stage.

റാവു ബഹദൂർ ടി. കെ. നായർ: ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഇന്നലെ ഞാൻ മദ്രപടി പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞു. ഇത്രയും ന്യായമായിട്ടു്, ഈ ബഡ്ഡറ്റിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യ വേണമെങ്കിൽ ഇത്ര വേഗത്തിൽ ടാക്സ് ചെയ്യാവുന്ന ഏർപ്പാടില്ല. ഇതുകൊണ്ടു് ബസ്സിൽ യാത്ര ചെയ്യാനൊന്നും ഒരു വിഷമവും നേരിടുന്നതല്ല. ബസ്സുടമസ്ഥന്മാക്കു് ഇതുകൊണ്ടു് കഠിനവിഷമം തട്ടുമെന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ ടാക്സ് ന്യായീകരിക്കത്തക്കതല്ലെന്നു് പറയുന്നതായാൽ ഞാൻ അതു് വകവെച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നില്ല. ഏതെങ്കിലും തട്ടാത്ത ഒരു ടാക്സും ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനു് ഇതുവരെ നടപ്പാക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. ഇതു് വലിയ ഒരു നികുതിയാണെന്നു് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനു് തോന്നുന്നില്ല. എത്രകാലത്തെ പഴക്കംകൊണ്ടാണു് ടാക്സ് കൂട്ടുക എന്ന ഒരു നിയമം ഇതുവരെ ഒരു ദിക്കിലും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. ഈ നികുതി മദ്രാസ്സിൽ നടപ്പാക്കിയിട്ടു് പതിനേഴു് കൊല്ലത്തോളമായിട്ടുണ്ടായിരിക്കും. അതു് ഇത്രകൊല്ലത്തെ കാലംവെച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് അങ്ങിനെ കൂട്ടുക എന്നു് ഒരു കണക്കുമില്ല. പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു്, ഇക്കൊല്ലം ഡെഫിസിറ്റു് ബഡ്ഡറ്റായതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ വെഹിക്കിൾസിനെ ടാക്സ് ചെയ്യുക എന്നുള്ളതു് എത്രയും equitable ആണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് സഭ ഇതു പസ്സാക്കിത്തരുമെന്നു് വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

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Mr. President: The question is that the Cochin Vehicles Taxation Act (Amendment) Bill be taken up and finally passed.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. President: Next item is voting of demands for grants. There is a Cut motion by Mr. M. K. Raja on item No. 20 Medical.

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Public Health):* Government accept the Cut motion, Sir.

26. Medical—Cut Motion

Encouragement to Homoeopathic System— *(cont.)*

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. കെ. രാജാ: ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് മറുപടി പറയുക എന്ന കൃത്യത്തിന്റെ അധികം ഭാരവും എന്റെ തലയിൽനിന്ന് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രി എടുത്തു കളഞ്ഞതിൽ എനിക്ക് വളരെ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. ഞാൻ മറുപടി പറയുകയായിരുന്നു എന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽതന്നെ അതിനെ എതൃയും ലഘൂകരിക്കത്തക്കവിധത്തിലുള്ള പ്രോത്സാഹജനകമായ സമീകരണമാണ് സഭയിലെ എല്ലാ വിഭാഗങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഉപക്ഷേപത്തിനു കിട്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതു് എന്നു് ഞാൻ കൃതജ്ഞതയോടുകൂടി അനുസ്മരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അനുകൂലിച്ച എല്ലാ അംഗങ്ങളോടും എനിക്ക നന്ദി പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ലേഡി മെമ്പർ മിസ്സിസ്സ് ഫ്രാൻസിസ്സ് ഈ ചികിത്സാസമ്പ്രദായത്തെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടതിൽ ഞാൻ അവരോടു് കടപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. പക്ഷെ ദൌർഭാഗ്യവശാൽ അവരുടെ പ്രസംഗം പല "എങ്കിലു"കളെക്കൊണ്ടും "പക്ഷെ"കളെക്കൊണ്ടും വിശേഷിപ്പിച്ച ഒന്നായിരുന്നു. ഞാൻ അവരുടെ എല്ലാ വാദങ്ങൾക്കും മറുപടി പറയണമെന്നു് ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നില്ല. അവരുടെ പ്രധാനമായ വാദം ഹോമിയോപ്പതി ഒരു അപൂർണ്ണമായ ചികത്സാസമ്പ്രദായമാണെന്നാണു്. വിശേഷിച്ചും, പ്രസവത്തുശ്രൂഷ, ശസ്ത്രക്രിയ മുതലായവയിൽ അലോപ്പതിക്ക സാധിക്കുന്നപോലെ ഹോമിയോപ്പതി ചികത്സാസമ്പ്രദായത്തിനു പ്രവത്തിക്കാൻ കഴിയുന്നില്ലെന്നു് അവർ പറഞ്ഞു. അതിനു് ഞാൻ മറുപടി പറയാം. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വനിതാമെമ്പറോടു് ഞാനൊന്നു ചോദിക്കട്ടെ. ഹോമിയോപ്പതിയും, ആയുർവ്വേദം മുതലായ ചികത്സാസമ്പ്രദായങ്ങളും അപൂർണ്ണങ്ങളും: അലോപ്പതിമാത്രം പരിപൂർണ്ണമായിട്ടുള്ള ചികത്സാസമ്പ്രദായവുമാണെന്നാണോ അവരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം? നിദാനശാസ്ത്രം, ചികൽസാശാസ്ത്രം, ഔഷധശാസ്ത്രം എന്നീ ശാസ്ത്രങ്ങളിൽ ആയുർവ്വേദത്തിനു കിട്ടാൻ കഴിയാത്ത വിജയം അലോപ്പതിക്കുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടോ? ആയുർവ്വേദത്തിനു കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാൻ കഴിയാത്ത എതു ജീവിതരഹസ്യങ്ങൾ അലോപ്പതിക്ക കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്? സൂക്ഷ്മമായി പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ, ഒരു ചികൽസാസമ്പ്രദായവും പൂർണ്ണമായ ഒന്നല്ലെന്നു് നമുക്ക കാണാം. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഹോമിയോപ്പതി മാത്രം പൂർണ്ണമല്ല എന്നു പറയുന്നതു് ശരിയല്ലെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. സർ, ഇതൊക്കെക്കൊണ്ടാണിക്കുന്നതു് ഇത്രമാത്രമാണു്. വാസ്തവം പറയുമ്പോൾ, മറ്റുള്ള ചികൽസാസമ്പ്രദായങ്ങൾപോലെതന്നെ അലോപ്പതി ചികൽസാസമ്പ്രദായവും ഇന്നും ഒരു പരീക്ഷണഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്നതേയുള്ളു. ഒരുകാലത്തു് അലോപ്പതിയുടെ അങ്ങേ അറ്റത്തെ വിജയമായിക്കണക്കാക്കപ്പെട്ടിരുന്ന വിറ്റാമിൻ തിയറിക്കും, ഹോർമോൺ തിയറിക്കും മറ്റും ഇപ്പോൾ എന്തു സംഭവിച്ചു എന്നു ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെ പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ.....

മിസ്സിസ്സ് ടി. ഫ്രാൻസിസ്സ്: പക്ഷെ അതിന്റെ ഒക്കെ ഉദ്ദേശം ആ ചികൽസാസമ്പ്രദായങ്ങളും മനുഷ്യക്കു് ഉപകാരപ്രദമാക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. ചില സംഗതികളിൽ, അതായതു് Midwifery, Surgery മുതലായ കായ്യങ്ങളിൽ അലോപ്പതിയിൽ ഉള്ളപോലെ ഹോമിയോപ്പതിയിൽ അത്രക്കു് വന്നിട്ടില്ല എന്നമാത്രമാണു് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രിയോടു് ഹോമിയോപ്പതിയെ പ്രോൽസാഹിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നതന്നെയാണു് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. കെ. രാജാ: ഞാൻ അധികം പറഞ്ഞുപോയി എന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ക്ഷമിക്കണം. ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു് ഇത്രമാത്രമേയുള്ള. ലോകത്തിൽ ഒരു ചികൽസാസമ്പ്രദായവും പരിപൂർണ്ണമായ നിലയിൽ എത്തീട്ടില്ല.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly